



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



August 25, 2020

File ID: 20-0283

TITLE

- A. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA ACCEPTING \$750,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES (COPS) FOR THE COPS HIRING GRANT PROGRAM, AND ADDING SIX PEACE OFFICERS TO THE AUTHORIZED STAFFING LEVEL OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT (4/5 VOTE REQUIRED)

- B. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA APPROVING THE AMENDED MEASURE A PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENDITURE PLAN TO MOVE UP THE HIRING OF SIX PEACE OFFICERS TO FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET OF THE MEASURE A SALES TAX FUND TO FUND SUCH POSITIONS FROM COPS HIRING GRANT PROGRAM AND MEASURE A - POLICE DEPARTMENT AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE (4/5 VOTE REQUIRED)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Council adopt the resolutions.

SUMMARY

The Police Department was awarded a 3-year, \$750,000 competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to assist the City in hiring six sworn police officers.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The activity is not a "Project" as defined under Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act State Guidelines; therefore, pursuant to State Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3) no environmental review is required.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

During its regular meeting held on August 13, 2020, the Measure A Citizens' Oversight Committee recommended City Council approval of moving up the hiring of six Peace Officers to fiscal year 2021, as a result of COPS Hiring Grant funding.

DISCUSSION

On June 25, 2020, the Police Department was notified it was awarded \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the COPS Hiring Grant Program. This grant program is competitive, and Chula Vista was one of only three agencies in the Southern District of California who received funding. Only approximately half of the 1,100 applicants across the country that applied for these funds received an award, and Chula Vista received the maximum award possible. This COPS grant allows the Police Department to hire six additional sworn police officers and funds \$125,000 per officer over a 3-year grant period. One of the six new officers hired as part of this grant program must be a military veteran.

Since the COPS Hiring Grant does not fully fund the personnel cost of a Peace Officer, the grant terms require recipients to contribute a local cash match. During its regular meeting held on August 13, 2020, the Measure A Citizens' Oversight Committee recommended City Council approval of using Measure A funds to meet the local match requirement.

This grant program also required applicants to identify a specific crime and disorder problem focus area and explain how the funding will be used to implement community policing approaches to that problem focus area. The Police Department identified a recent trend of juvenile violent crime. Both suspects and victims, between the ages of 10-18, now constitute 26% of all robberies in the city. This is a 10% increase in juvenile-related crime in the past 3 years. In 2020 to date, Chula Vista already has had 10 juvenile crimes, as compared to 1 in 2018. It is estimated that over 80% of juveniles involved in violent crimes in Chula Vista are not directly school-based. The Department will continue monitoring this trend subsequent to the closing of all Learning Centers in Chula Vista at the end of the 19-20 school year and implementation of distance learning as a result of the COVID pandemic. The closure of Learning Centers will leave former students unattended and without structured educational direction. This is a nuance that has created a challenge for the school resource officer program, which typically oversees juvenile-related crimes. The Department plans to educate and build relationships with students to deter them from making choices that will lead to illegal activity. Also, utilizing intelligence-led policing, the Department will identify times and locations that have been found to be associated with the school-aged students gathering for nefarious purposes during normal school hours and committing violent crimes. The Department will focus increased police presence and enforcement in those areas at those times. The Police Department will partner with schools, other local law enforcement agencies, South Bay Community Services. The Department will further develop relationships with community and business members in the focus areas identified through enhanced dashboard technology. The dashboards will better parse data to help Department staff understand the intricacies of criminal activity, so they are better able to influence, deter and reduce youth-related crime.

DECISION-MAKER CONFLICT

Staff has reviewed the decision contemplated by this action and has determined that it is not site-specific and consequently, the real property holdings of the City Council members do not create a disqualifying real property-related financial conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act (Cal. Gov't Code § 87100, et seq.).

Staff is not independently aware, and has not been informed by any City Council member, of any other fact that may constitute a basis for a decision-maker conflict of interest in this matter.

CURRENT-YEAR FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of Resolution A will result in the acceptance of \$750,000 for the 2020 COPS Hiring Program from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and will add six Peace Officers to the authorized staffing level of the Police Department.

Approval of Resolution B will amend the Measure A Public Safety Expenditure Plan to add six Peace Officers, and will amend the fiscal year 2021 revenue and expenditure budget for the Measure A Sales Tax Fund to fund such positions from COPS Hiring Grant Program and Measure A – Police Department available fund balance.

Assuming a January 2021 hire date, the FY21 personnel cost of six Peace Officers is approximately \$560,868. Funds received from the COPS Hiring grant will partially offset the annual personnel costs. The remaining costs will be included in the Measure A Public Safety Expenditure Plan. The chart below shows the current-year fiscal impact:

Measure A Budget

Category	Current FY21 Budget	Budget Amendments	Updated FY21 Budget
Revenue from Other Agencies	\$0	\$125,000	\$125,000
Transfers In – Measure A STX	\$10,010,000		\$10,010,000
REVENUE TOTAL	\$10,010,000	\$125,000	\$10,135,000
Personnel Expenses	\$7,089,099	\$560,868	\$7,649,967
Supplies & Services	\$525,737		\$525,737
Other Expenses	\$375,375		\$375,375
Capital	\$189,233		\$189,233
Internal Service Charges	\$30,767		\$30,767
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$8,210,211	\$560,868	\$8,771,079
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$1,799,789	(\$435,868)	\$1,363,921

ONGOING FISCAL IMPACT

The COPS Hiring Grant will offset approximately 20% of the cost of six Peace Officers over the three-year grant period. The following table depicts the estimated cost, and federal and City shares by fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Total Cost	Federal Share	City Share Measure A
20-21	\$560,868	\$125,000	\$435,868
21-22	\$1,219,446	\$250,000	\$969,446
22-23	\$1,303,308	\$250,000	\$1,053,308
23-24	\$676,065	\$125,000	\$551,065
Totals	\$3,759,687	\$750,000	\$3,009,687

The City share will be included in the Measure A Public Safety Expenditure Plan. Attachment 2 shows the amended Measure A PSEP for the Police Department, which includes the COPS funding.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: COPS Hiring Program Award Letter

Attachment 2: Amended Measure A Public Safety Expenditure Plan – Police Department

Staff Contact: Beverly Sturk, Police Department